O Glorious St. Anthony

Dear Friend,

The great devotion to St. Anthony of Padua is worldwide. All over the earth those who appreciate the wonder-worker of Padua with confidence know they will receive his help and consolation.

Any follower of Christ, our Savior, who is devoted to God's servant, St. Anthony, can count on both material and spiritual favors.

The prayer of Innocent Children... Christ instructed His apostles, "Let the little children come to me." (Mk 10:13). Hence, our mission children gather before God's altar to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They ask our Lord to bless our Franciscan benefactors through the intercession of St. Anthony.

Each one of us has needs and problems that require the grace of God. Your petitions addressed to God through St. Anthony will be echoed in the prayers of the innocent little children of our missions.

Fr. Bernard, ofm

The Director

PETITION TO ST. ANTHONY

Glorious St. Anthony, I come to you in my present need with supreme confidence. Your great generosity impels you to listen attentively to anyone who turns to you. Your influence with God is ever effective in obtaining divine graces and favors.

In spite of my unworthiness and my sinfulness, I present my petition. Your abiding love for Christ, the Lord, and Mary, His holy Mother, will obtain for me the grace I so ardently pray for, *(Here mention your requests),* in accordance with God's will.

I place my earnest petition in your hands, beloved St. Anthony, and with it the prayers of the little mission children in favor of my intentions.

Please grant your intercession also, great Saint of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Franciscan mission children attend special services and offer their fervent prayers for benefactors every Tuesday, and on the 13th of each month. They present to St. Anthony all the anxieties, desires and petitions of all who wish to be recommended to their prayers.

PRAYER

Most loving protector, St. Anthony of Padua, I come to you full of deepest gratitude and liveliest appreciation. I thank you for the wonderful favor received from God in response to my prayers and those of the mission children.

You proved my refuge and consolation in the afflictions and anguish of life, and I shall never cease to praise you.

May your merits be ever better known on earth, your example imitated, and your present glory a perpetual hymn of adoration to the most Holy Trinity and the ever-blessed Virgin Mother of God, for all ages to come. Amen.

Most loving St. Anthony, my patron, what worthy gift can I possibly offer you to prove my gratitude?

I will praise the name of the Lord and strive to imitate your devotion and virtue. I will, henceforth, be more diligent in prayer, more fervent in charity and more grateful for all the benefits God has given me. I will praise your name, great wonder-worker of Padua, proclaim the esteem in which you are held throughout the world, and make known the miracles with which you have filled the Church. Thanks and praise forever to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to the ever-Virgin Mother of God. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF ILLNESS OR DISTRESS

Admirable and glorious St. Anthony, you are renowned for many miracles during your earthly life, and for continuing since then to secure marvelous favors and graces for those who suffer.

With confidence in your goodness, I resort to you in my present affliction. Although I am conscious of having often offended God's majesty by my sins, now in contrition and sorrow for my misdeeds I seek your assistance. Please obtain for me pardon of my past sins, a spirit of resignation to God's will, and the relief I seek to recover from my present infirmity.

Kindly show compassion on me, present my prayer to God, and help me to recover good health so that I may serve God in fidelity and peace. I offer my illness to God through your hands, so that with your intercession, our heavenly Father may grant me health in soul, mind and body. Amen.

PRAYER FOR YOUR PARENTS

Dearest St. Anthony, in accordance with the command of God, I reverence, respect and love my parents as His special gift to me. It is they who reflected the boundless goodness of God in granting me life. Our eternal Father chose them to bring me into existence, and to provide for my physical, moral and spiritual development.

With loving care and sacrifice, my parents prepared me for life's joys, pains and problems. They performed to the best of their ability this difficult and delicate task.

Revered St. Anthony, I entreat you to look favorably on my parents for all they have done for me. Come always to their aid in life, I ask you, and be with them when they go to God. By your intercession, may they receive the eternal reward God promised to His good and faithful friends. Amen.

PRAYER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

(to consecrate them to St. Anthony)

Glorious St. Anthony, your devoted clients have accorded you wonderful titles, such as, "the Saint of Miracles," and "Wonder-worker of Padua."

The age-old and world-wide veneration are a sure sign of your tenderness and generosity of heart. I am confident, then, in recommending to your special care, my most precious treasures, the children with whom God has blessed me.

You know the dangers of body and soul to which children are exposed in our time. You, who are so powerful, watch over them to protect them from every evil. Please preserve them by your intercession in innocence, protect them from sin and harm, and confirm them in fidelity to God almighty.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

To present and to consecrate your children to St. Anthony assures you of the Saint's protection of them. St. Anthony will know how best to help, guard and direct them in the ways of God.

PRAYER FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

Glorious St. Anthony of Padua, I come before you to ask a great grace. In my youth and inexperience, I stand in special need of your counsel and intercession.

Kindly direct my steps in making a wise choice of companion in married life. By your powerful assistance enlighten my mind and strengthen my will so that this momentous decision may be pleasing to God.

Because you are known to be so good and compassionate, I entrust to you the desire and anxiety of my heart. May the person the Lord destines for me be a faithful Christian, a good provider, and a worthy parent.

May our family be one, above all, in mutual love and affection so that united on earth, we may one day be reunited in God's Kingdom. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

(for protection and guidance in studies)

Lovable St. Anthony, your innocence of life was a reflection of your great love for God and for all God's creation. Your learning and wisdom were great. As you counselled others during life and worked miracles for those in need, please protect me from harm.

You know the inordinate thoughts, desires and affection with which I am afflicted. You realize the allurements of the world and the snares of the Evil One.

How ardently I wish ever to be united with God, the source of all goodness, truth and beauty! Help me please, St. Anthony, renowned as a lily of purity, to keep guard over my thoughts, desires and deeds. With your assistance, may I always appreciate the value of study.

I earnestly beseech you, Saint of Miracles, to obtain for me an enlightened mind and a righteous heart so that I may always follow the path of Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUCCESS IN EXAMINATIONS

Glorious wonder-worker, St. Anthony of Padua, as I prepare for my examination, I come to ask your aid. Secure for me in your kindness the spirit of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. With your help may I be able, with clear vision and unclouded mind, to pass successfully. In this way, too, I will show gratefulness to my parents and teachers who have sacrificed themselves so much for my good.

Hear the prayers of the Franciscan mission children which join my own petitions for your assistance. In gratitude, I will try harder to be more diligent in serving God and in loving my neighbors as I continue my studies. Amen.

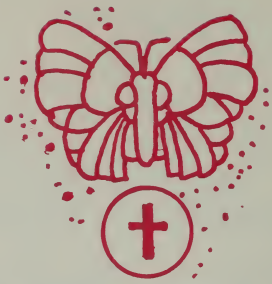
PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS

Most tender and lovable St. Anthony, you are my most special protector. Throughout your mortal life, you labored strenuously for the salvation of sinners.

Have pity then, on all those who have strayed far from their heavenly Father's house, and are in great danger of losing the prize of life. For such lost and hopeless ones Christ, our Lord, shed His precious blood and patiently endured a most cruel death. I entreat your aid to grant sinners the grace of repentance and a return to the love of Christ's most Sacred Heart. With your help, may the darkness of sinners' minds be enlightened, the weakness of their wills strengthened, and the chains of evil habits shattered. Then may they be united once more with Jesus the Lord, shepherd of their souls. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

St. Anthony labored mightily by prayer and preachings to convert sinners. Man found peace and comfort by return to God through his powerful intercession in heaven.



PRAYER FOR A HAPPY DEATH

Good St. Anthony, in God's infinite goodness you have enriched the lives of those who rely on you with many spiritual graces and material favors as well.

I turn to you with great confidence to ask you to be my special advocate before the throne of God. Kindly protect me from all the snares of spiritual enemies, comfort me in affliction, and provide me with life's necessities.

Especially do I implore your protection in the final trials of life. Comforted by your aid, may I persevere in the grace of God until my last breath. Then, in the company of the blessed, may you be my patron also in perpetual praise and thanksgiving in the glory of Paradise.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

May St. Anthony obtain for me from our Savior the grace of a happy death fortified by the holy Sacraments.

THE LIFE OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

St. Anthony of Padua, a native of Portugal, was born in Lisbon, in the year 1195. When he was 15, he joined the Canon Regular of St. Augustine and remained a monk for ten years.

Filled with missionary ardor St. Anthony entered the Franciscan Order in which he spent the remaining 11 years of his short life. He died in Italy at Vercelli on June 13, 1231, and was canonized by Pope Gregory IX within a year.

In contrast to the brevity of St. Anthony's life is the universality of his appeal which remains undimmed today after almost 800 years. He is recognized by many observers as the most popular of all the Saints of God.

As a Franciscan friar his time was devoted to prayer, study, and preaching. St. Francis selected him to be the first theologian of the Franciscan Order, and he was finally proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946 by Pope Pius XII. So powerful was his preaching, and so astounding the miracles that accompanied his proclamation of the word of God that St. Anthony was revered in his own day by the faithful of every rank.

The miracles attributed to him were so many that we here mention but a few: his sermon to the fish at Rimini, his protection of his audience during a furious rainstorm, his appearance at the same

time in the pulpit and in a distant friary choir, the healing of a boy's amputated foot, the deliverance of his brethren from temptations, and the preservation of the people from injury.

The miracles continued after his death, and even today the reports of favors received through his intercession with God are literally innumerable. He is particularly invoked as the finder of things lost.

When St. Anthony's tomb was opened 30 years after his death, although his body had turned to dust, his tongue was miraculously preserved. In venerating this symbol of his sacred eloquence St. Bonaventure, then the Minister General of the Franciscan Order, said, "O blessed tongue that always praised the Lord, and caused others to bless Him, now it is manifest how great your merits were before God."

The followers and clients of St. Anthony are legion in every Christian land. They have over the centuries observed Tuesday as a special day consecrated to his honor.

St. Anthony is rightly celebrated as the Wonder-Worker of Padua, the city which guards his tomb, and by Catholics the world over as the Saint of Miracles.

WHO PRAYS FOR YOU?

All your fellow members of Franciscan Mission Associates, all our Franciscan missionaries laboring for Christ in the missions of Central America, the mission people aided by your charity, and the poor children, often orphaned, and clothed and fed by your generosity.

Why?

They have no other hope in life but God, and the charity and goodness of God's friends who are inspired by the Holy Spirit to come to their aid.

What will be your Reward?

The help of God who is never outdone in generosity; the prayers of all on the Franciscan missions for your intentions and needs and those of all who are dear to you; the prayers of all our Associates will also beg God for the graces you require. Most of all in practicing mercy, you extend your charity to Christ through your goodness to the least of his brethren. There is a great reward.

HOW YOU MAY HELP THE MISSION CHILDREN

1. By your daily prayers and offering of the duties of your state in life for their needs.
2. By a substantial contribution in accordance with your means so that you become a permanent benefactor sharing in the prayers of our Franciscan missionaries and their people.
3. By becoming a Franciscan Mission Sponsor who sends a specific monthly contribution to help support a missionary, a mission family, or one of the poor mission children.
4. By mentioning the needs of our mission children to your friends and sending the names and addresses of worthy benefactors.

When mailing your contributions, in writing to us, or to send your intentions, please use this address:

FRANCISCAN MISSION ASSOCIATES
P.O. BOX 598
MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10551

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